

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

27th Sunday of Ordinal Time

October 4th, 2020

Prayer for Spiritual Communion: **My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.**

Calendar:

- **10/07/20 Faith Formation:** Regular Wednesday Schedule
- **10/08/20 Live Drive** Thursday Fr. Lefor hosts live drive for Catholic Radio 1370AM from 11 to 1:00AM. Call in 1-877-795-0122

Pastor's Reflections:

- This is a time of real actual grace. The Lord is making it available for anyone who would like to take him up on his generosity. Normally after an initial fervor I slacken and fade when it comes to spiritual commitments. Take 40 Days for Life for example. I usually start off with conviction to make a difference thru prayer, fasting, and penance and after a few days in I start to fade and then get a bit hopeless. This year has been quite different. We are a good two weeks in and God is holding me up in His grace. First thing every morning I do a five minute penance, the fasting from the NFL has led to wonderful fruit, and I have prayed every morning. As if that wasn't enough I have already made a pilgrimage to the abortuary in Fargo and had a powerful experience. I have scheduled a second one in a couple of weeks.

Normally when I go, I go with others or I meet up with others at the abortuary. This year is the first year I went alone. When I arrived nobody else was there. It was the feast of the archangels and so I called upon them asking them to be with me. I felt their presence. As I stood outside the abortuary and prayed silently as a public witness against abortion a young couple came walking by. They went about twenty feet away and sat at an outdoor table and order burgers and beers. They were on a date in a newly formed relationship. They were quite happy and giddy. I looked up and I am not sure but it

seemed to me that there are apartments above the abortuary and it looked like a light was on and someone was home. It struck me as such an odd contrast that here is a young couple enjoying their new relationship and here was another person retiring for the evening and they were mere feet away from where babies are being slaughtered by their parents and none of them even noticed. It pierced my soul deeply how great of a need there is for the conversion of our nation. We are so satisfied with our lives that we cannot hear the cry of the littlest ones amongst us.

- Please make a real effort to pray that God will raise up to the Supreme Court a mature faith-filled Christian who is under God's authority and is not ashamed of the Gospel.

- **Thoughts on today's readings:**

These are anxious days. St. Paul tells us to have no anxiety at all! He says to let the peace of God which surpasses all understanding to guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. How? He says by making a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving in every circumstance to God the Father in Christ Jesus. And finally keep your mind on all that is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and worthy of praise and the Peace of God will remain with you. It almost sounds as if he wants us to take a break from news and social media!

- St. John's Finance Council has approved two projects to improve the property of St. John's. 1) The rain gutters and down spouts must be replaced to correct water damage that is occurring to the siding, windows, and foundation due to rain runoff. These will be replaced in October. 2) The ditch east of the church will be cleaned and tiled in order to fix the sump pump runoff problem.
- The new gutters and down spouts will cost \$4,500. The ditch project will run around \$3,000. If anyone feels called to donate to the expenses of these projects it would be greatly appreciated.

Tri-Parish Loan for Rectory update: In 2017 a loan of \$183,000 was received from the Diocese to acquire a new rectory. To date \$12,910 at 3% interest remains on the balance. We have paid \$7,192 of interest on this loan since 2017. **Thank you to all who have been so generous!**

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!